

Washington, DC—Today U.S. Rep. Debbie Halvorson voted to hire more than 1,500 new Border Patrol, Customs & Border Protection, and Immigration & Customs Enforcement agents to help secure our Southwestern border from illegal immigration, drug smuggling and human trafficking.

The funding will boost our nation's border security, putting more agents on patrol and protecting communities along the US-Mexico border. The legislation, known as the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations for Border Security Act provides \$600 million in emergency funding to shore up our border, and now goes to the Senate for approval.

"I've visited the border to hear what our border patrol agents and law enforcement officials need to keep our border secure. This bipartisan bill will help us address a pressing national security issue, and will help us reduce violence along the Southwestern border."

The legislation also provides funds to deploy drone aircraft to patrol and monitor the southern border, nearly \$200 million to increase the number of ATF, DEA and FBI agents on our border, and funds to bolster the number of prosecutors and court resources along the border.

According to the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office, this legislation is paid for and has a net effect of decreasing the deficit by \$52 million.

The measure will be paid for in part by increasing the cost of two visas which permit foreign workers to come to work in the United States. These fee increases, which will raise \$550 million, would apply only to companies with more than 50 employees and for whom the majority of their workforce is visa-holding foreign workers.